

The Washington Times

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1916.

THE PHYSICAL INVENTORY

This is tuberculosis week, and tomorrow is annual medical examination day.

It ought not to be necessary to repeat this statement. But it is a human characteristic to be business-like in the inspection of machinery, and buildings, and other possessions, and to be careless in respect to the human body.

Tomorrow is the day when individuals are asked to inventory the assets and liabilities of the human machine. Statistics show that the chances are all against your being in perfect physical condition, especially if you are over thirty years old. Out of 2,000 men and women examined in one group recently, all of whom thought they had "perfect health," 70 per cent were found to have impairments more or less serious.

There is no need for alarm about this. Perhaps you can live a long time with the body impaired; but there is a good chance that you may not. Anyway, it is bad sense and obvious inefficiency not to have your defects checked up and try to get them remedied.

BOILER INSPECTION

The conference of experts in session here this week to consider uniformity in State boiler inspection laws calls attention to a highly important factor in industrial progress and administration that has been given only passing attention in the past.

It comes as a shock to the average citizen that a boiler that is considered safe in one State because its laws are lax and its inspections perfunctory, is likely to kill half a dozen people or wreck an entire factory or apartment house in another State, which has rigid inspection laws, but which passed the poor boiler as a "courtesy" to the State in which the error of construction was passed.

Yet that is exactly what happens in many localities. One of the delegates to the present conference called attention to the fact that in one State fifteen deaths had been caused by the explosion of boilers that were permitted to be used because some other State inspectors had passed upon them.

There is no reason why there should not be uniformity and most drastic regulation of boilers and boiler inspection. There is hardly a citizen whose life is not held at the mercy of a boiler's soundness at some time during practically every day of his life. But there is no such uniformity. Some States have drastic laws and some States have practically no laws. In some States the inspection service is faithfully applied, and in others it is a merely perfunctory examination.

A "DRY" SCARE IN BOSTON

Is there no succor from worries, no haven of even reasonable security, for the harassed liquor dealers? From Boston, long the impregnable stronghold of the saloon in New England, comes the announcement that "Billy" Sunday is making such a fight that there is serious chance of the Hub going dry when it votes on the license question on the 19th of this month.

Massachusetts towns, it seems, have the privilege of voting every year on the question of license. Last year without any great effort being put forth, the license proposal carried by only about 14,000. The manager of the "wet" campaign this year is quoted as saying that the town is "safely humid by about 2,000 votes." That is, of course, equivalent to saying it is not safely wet at all, for it is calculated that about 135,000 votes will be cast on the proposition. The liquor interest in Boston is feeling today very much as the national campaigner felt at 10 o'clock on the morning of the first Wednesday following the first Monday in November. They are as nervous as a cat; which, considering the long currency of that phrase for purposes of emphasizing comparison, we assume is pretty nervous.

It is gathered from reports on the alarming condition at the Kultur Kapital, that the liquor people are making a still hunt; hustling to get their friends registered so they can vote, stirring up the least possible antagonism, suppressing discussion of the menace in any public way, and especially aiming to keep the women from being unduly aroused, lest they "become hysterical." The ladies don't vote in Boston, but they are coming to be regarded, even where they don't vote, as a factor that must be reckoned with.

Sunday is conducting one of his

big revivals in Boston, and it is explained that when he started he didn't intend to start a dry movement. But right at the outset somebody explained in one of the meetings that there was an annual vote on the subject, and declared that a proper effort would carry the town for the dries. That started the Reverend "Billy" on the trail of the demon rum, and since then the demon has been going somewhat, as it is assumed they would say in Boston if they ever said anything like that.

The dry element say there would be no doubt about the town voting itself dry, if only the "respectable" sections, which have no saloons and would start a new revolutionary war if saloons were forced upon them, will do as well in the polling as the parts of town where the saloons thrive. It is claimed that the demon is in a bad way for support in the very areas where he has his habitat; but there is a certain cheerful unconcern in territory where the demon hasn't a chance anyhow. Showing how Boston, after all, is a good deal like other towns and Bostonese not unlike other folks.

It seems that when Detroit, quite a sizable town itself, went overwhelmingly dry, the liquor people in Boston got an awful shock. They are no longer sure of anything.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President Wilson's address, delivered by him in person to the Congress in accordance with the long-neglected custom which he revived upon his assumption of office, was brief, in recognition of the shortness of the session. Indeed, it was merely an urgent request that the incomplete program of the last long session be completed at this time.

First in importance, the President places the measures to insure against a national crisis in the transportation field. The last session passed a part of his program; he insists that the remainder be enacted into law without delay. Foremost among the recommendations he places that for adding two members to the Interstate Commerce Commission, and reorganizing its administrative methods. This measure has already passed the House, and is presumed to have no serious opposition in the Senate. That it will be among the earliest legislative accomplishments is regarded well-nigh assured. The need for it has been made manifest by the conditions of the Interstate Commerce Commission's work.

Beyond this, the President stands for the various measures he asked last summer, for dealing with controversies between employer and employee, involving interstate commerce. It will be gratifying to people concerned—as who is not?—in behalf of fair treatment to the railroads, that the President insists that the Interstate Commission has all the authority it needs, to advance railroad rates if the revenue requirements of the carriers shall necessitate. Last summer the President asked Congress expressly to signify its approval of such an advance by the commission. Now he expresses the opinion that there is no need of affirmative legislation, because the power indubitably resides already in the commission and need not be reaffirmed. His expression is such as to indicate his approval of the increases, if the commission shall be satisfied of their necessity. This ought to go far toward establishing the credit of the railroads.

Mr. Wilson declines to approve compulsory arbitration measures. He wants rather a development of the procedure of mediation, conciliation, an duplicity, by perfection of a procedure in line with present law. Considering the thoroughness with which all these issues were discussed at the last session and during the late campaign, it seems probable that Congress will be able to register its determination on all the questions, unless there shall be a determined filibuster, such as can always embarrass the business of a short session.

THE BELGIAN RELIEF WORK

The recent policy of Germany, in shipping away into slavery tens of thousands of the people of Belgium and the north of France, and of using the relief supplies intended for Belgium to supplement the resources of Germany, has brought its inevitable result. The entente allies have issued a pronouncement to the world that they will not be able to permit the relief work to continue as heretofore, unless they can be assured that it will be placed on the basis on which alone such work should be conducted. Manifestly, they will not allow the world's charity, operating through neutral agencies, to serve Germany. They control the routes by which supplies must reach Belgium, and that control makes it possible for them to determine whether the supplies shall go to it. Once in, the German military government is in position to control the distribution of the supplies, to utilize the labor of the Belgian people, even to carry them away in captivity to serve in German munition factories, and the like. The allies will not, and could not possibly be expected to permit such proceedings.

The war is approaching, its supreme horror, in this problem of Bel-

gium, now more acute than ever before. It may be that the Germans, if relief for Belgium is shut out, will adopt yet more sweeping measures to utilize the labor of the Belgian people under military authority. There is a chance of the whole nation being carried away in captivity, in circumstances that would almost render its rehabilitation after the war impossible.

The Government of the United States has lately protested solemnly, to Berlin, against the deportations of the people of Belgium; and the occupied French provinces; and the sentiments of the civilized world are back of that protest. But if Germany refuses to consider world opinion of more significance than she has attached to it in the past, there is small hope for bettering the conditions of this innocent people, the most pitilessly outraged nation of modern times.

AN AMERICAN U-BOAT BASE

If it should prove true, as is circumstantially reported, that Germany is establishing a base for submarines on one of the islands off the coast of Venezuela, it will add a new one to the series of complications over submarine war. The appearance of submarines off the coast of the United States, and the sinking of vessels barely outside the three-mile limit of this country, gave a forcible reminder of the possibilities of this craft, once turned loose on the great trade routes of the world. To make matters more uncomfortable, there was the visit of the U-53 to Newport, where it was suspected of getting the latest information concerning the location of vessels on the trade lanes; information that would be of the greatest value in determining when and where to strike.

It would be of course a flagrant violation of neutrality of Venezuela if the effort to create such a base should be successful. More than that, it would raise a serious question of the responsibilities of this country under the Monroe doctrine. The report is that Germany's especial purpose is to intercept vessels carrying oil from the Caribbean region for the naval uses of the allies. But in addition to that, shipping with supplies for the allied countries would be in the greatest danger, and such a warfare would menace the whole fabric of trade between the Americas and Europe.

It has been reported recently that Germany even planned to send undersea boats into the Pacific, where they would be able to attack all kinds of shipping, and particularly to interfere effectively with the trade of Japan, on which that country is now waxing wealthy. It may well be doubted whether such a move will be attempted. It is quite possible that bases might be established by German agents in convenient parts of the eastern waters, for the Pacific is wide and its countries filled with adventurers who could be employed in such work. But it would seem a tremendous mistake for Germany to undertake a direct attack of that sort on Japan, which has a magnificent army, and would be more tempted than ever to project it into the war in order to bring a quicker conclusion and rescue commerce.

That an effort will be made to expand the utilization of the submarines is hardly doubtful. The new submarines are of immense size, and the Germans seem able to turn them out faster than the allies can dispose of them. The undersea war is now in a state that suggests it may become one of the determinative factors in the world struggle. It has been in large part responsible for the disaffection throughout the empire due to the failure of the admiralty effectively to cope with the monsters. The United States could not possibly overlook such a flagrant violation of our rights and obligations on this side the Atlantic, if a submarine campaign should be conducted from a secret base here.

"We cannot," says the Wall Street Journal, "sell our wheat and leather and steel and labor to the rest of the world at war prices and buy our food at peace prices. Perfectly correct, except the essence of the whole argument on the embargo question. But does a journal with the effrontery to name itself after the haunt of the money fend expect to be believed?"

A regular farmer is able to feel pretty poor when wheat takes a violent slump and touches \$1.66.

They're going to put armor suits on the British soldiers. Thus we see civilization receding again toward the methods of the middle ages. But we're used to it.

Beware the man who is amiable before breakfast. He intends to put something over on you before dinner.

There are 435 members of the House of Representatives, and six of them could determine whether it should be Republican or Democratic at the next session. Representative government? Yes; but of what?

The Department of Agriculture announces that it can produce eggs at 15 cents a dozen. Now's the time, Mr. Houston!

MARKET OPENS ACTIVE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The stock market was active and irregular at the opening. United States Steel sold 1/2 off to unchanged. Anaconda reacted 1/2 and Utah 1/2. Central Leather lost 1 point. International Paper advanced 1/2. Union Pacific gained 1/2, and Reading opened 1/2 up.

Don Marquis' Column

After Storm.

Three days of storm and then the sun!
'Twas worth the gray cloud cloaking heaven.

'Twas worth the closed door and the dark even
That came unjeweled, like a grieving nun

From the melancholy cloister of the sea
With the rain about her throat in leaden strands—

God's tears they seemed that dripped between her hands,
As slow she told her sadder story.

But now behold
Upon the heights of dawn
The young day leaping like a fawn—
Gold are her feet upon the hills of gold!

And the sun is in her hair,
Laughing, she stoops, with bright, rebellious eyes
To break the beads of night's despair—
And those who pass
Upon their early morning enterprise
See the open jewels scattered on the grass.

Phrases.
Congress, we read, is to make a determined effort to bring down the high cost of living. That topic is uppermost in the Congressional mind. Already the opening phrases of the annual bombardment of oratory begin to fall upon our defenseless ears. Somewhat as follows:

"The gravity of the situation makes it imperative that . . ."

"The people must be protected from . . ."

"A crime against civilization!"

"A crying need for bold . . . and decisive action," etc.

Very well. The effort to bring down the skyrocketing egg and the supercilious loaf doubtless is praiseworthy in the extreme. Nobody will be hurt but the speculators, and they deserve more than they will get. And we are in sympathy with the Congressional yearning to chastise the sinful.

But there are other matters not of the body which are even more deserving of the above phrases than the high cost of living. Matters of the soul.

The enslavement for Belgians, for instance.

And that troublesome question of the Lusitania, which will not stay buried and which instead of becoming past history, as it decently should, is getting around continually in front of us, like a ghost at a gourmand's feast.

Fine phrases are like fine feathers; they should be employed with great discretion, for when they do not dignify they make small. . . . And there are some Americans who are getting tired of being made small by the phraseologist.

Is there no one in Washington to give us fine deeds? Perhaps for Christmas.

Christmaside Triolet.

Mistletoe wheezes are creeping
Out from the dust of a year.
See! As they come they are weeping!
Mistletoe wheezes are creeping.

Sadly from where they've been sleeping.
Tired, and crippled, and drear
Mistletoe wheezes are creeping
Out from the dust of a year.

EDWARD HOPE.

Novel and Refreshing Thoughts.

Sir—Those magazines of which the December number is published July 1 will soon have their December numbers on the stands in December. I refer to the time when they will overlap themselves and come out a full year ahead.

LINTYPE LARRY.

For France.

This is the open season for Christmas appeals. Therefore, Don Marquis takes occasion to acquaint his readers with the following facts:

Item: That Gertrude Atherton's articles on her visit to France have been issued in pamphlet form.

Item: That these pamphlets are to be sold exclusively for the benefit of the French-American society, Le Bienenre du Blesse, which has been founded to supply the desperately wounded men in the war zone with delicate necessities to their recovery.

Item: That these pamphlets, entitled "Gertrude Atherton in the War Zone," may be given as Christmas cards, and that each one purchased represents a can of chicken broth, a jar of preserves, and an orange, or a can of cocoa, a bag of hominy for gruel, and a glass of jelly for some slowly convalescing soldier in the desolate war zone of France.

At all book stores (as the publishers say).

Chatterton.

Words that were like melodious flutes at the lips of his soul,
Unremembered of the Earth,
Are printed in the Book of Elohim
And are read by epiphanous beings in unmaterial spaces.

—Benjamin De Casseres.

No More, Morap.

If there's one thing
That makes me sore,
It's to have folks say,
"Oh! Morap-morap."

—Moran.

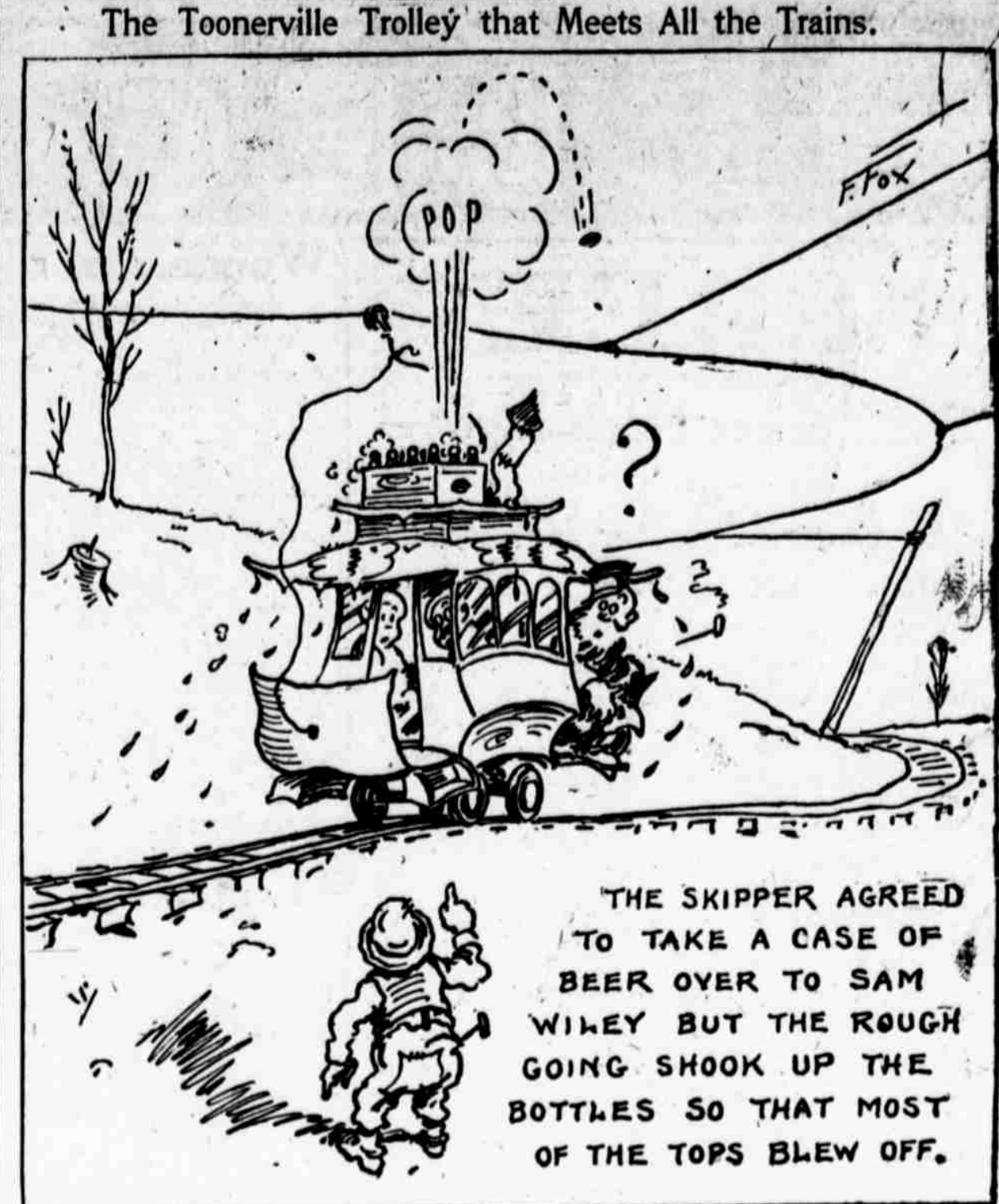
Personal.

The editor of this column fervently implores some leisurely person to inquire at the next session of the American Press. It is almost impossible to obtain enough prose to fill the spaces between poems.

Mr. Bryan says that he will have an important announcement to make on December 6. Quick, Watson, the gas mask!

Billy Sunday has come thundering to the defense of the Bible. Now if we can just get Willard to champion the works of Shakespeare the fair repute of our literature will be safe for all time.

DON MARQUIS.



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LETTERS TO EDITOR ON CURRENT TOPICS

Views of Readers on Subjects Found in the News.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

When Mr. Justice Hughes recently folded the ermine of the Supreme Court of the United States, and thus divested of his national character and life, became Citizen Hughes, of New York, the great Empire State of the North—his State, stood for him—even for the best the nation could afford, and it was no defection therefrom that rejected him to only the activities of such citizen, but a misapprehension and misconception of the nation's needs by other States.

President pro tem, of the Senate of the United States as a fitting representative of the State of Georgia, to which he has elected to be a citizen, and to which he owes the same half in which sphere, the obligations I do.

He will, in the exercise of the duties, privileges, and rights pertaining to such high national position, give equal consideration to each State of our most powerful nation, and as against the world of nations, whether empires, kingdoms, or republics, he will regard America first—America efficient, which will conduce to and produce America dominant on land and sea—not as war lords, nor as mistress of the seas, but America, master of the world's forces for honor, Christianity and virtue, exercised in all life's activities, whether personal, religious, political, commercial, or industrial, and the uplift of half of our nation (women) by equality before the law of God and man, as citizens and equal pay for equal work, which would hasten the millennium.

President Wilson's services, along these lines is Georgia's dire need.

Dr. EDNA REBEA BAILEY.

Washington, Nov. 30, 1916.

Government Employees Appointed

From the District Declared to Receive Less Than Those From the States.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Referring to your article regarding the wage scale of Government employees, I wish to say that in reference to the scale of wages paid, you failed to mention the number who are receiving \$300 per annum.

In the office in which I am employed four out of the seven messengers receive \$300, the other three receive \$720, and all do the same kind of work. The boys receiving \$720 are from the States, and those receiving \$300 are from the District.

More employees between the age of eighteen and twenty-one are receiving \$300 than are those over 40 years of age. They are not even classified, though all do work that pays \$540 or better to Government employees from the States.

For instance, one of the boys in our office works with a clerk who receives \$900 per annum, yet both do the same work.

Even though the Government clerks are underpaid, the real underpaid employees of the Government service are from the District of Columbia.

R. & R.

Washington, Nov. 29, 1916.

PETITION FOR BANKRUPTCY.

Creditors of J. S. Leatherman, Inc., 811 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, have petitioned the District Supreme Court to adjudge the corporation bankrupt. The petitioners include several jobbers, who allege that the Leatherman company committed acts of bankruptcy in giving preference to other creditors. Attorneys L. P. Lovins and L. L. Hamner appear for the petitioners.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled.

Today.

Address, the Rev. W. B. Wedderburn, Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church, 8 p. m.

Fair, St. Andrew's Church, New Hampshire Avenue and V street, evening.

Meeting, Home Economics Association, Morse School, 2:45 p. m.

Concert for Blind, auditorium, Library of Congress, 8 o'clock p. m.

Meeting, Georgia Society, Ebbitt Hotel, 8 o'clock p. m.

Meeting, Optimist Club, Church of Our Father, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Columbia Heights Citizens' Association, in Postoffice Hall, Park road, 8 p. m.

Supper, Ladies Aid Society of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, in parish hall, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Young People's Branch of W. C. T. U., at 1302 R street northwest, 8 p. m.

Bazaar and supper, board of lady managers of Baptist churches of District, at Calvary Baptist Church, for benefit of Baptist Home for Children, 8 p. m.

Lecture, J. R. Quinn, "Eden and Its Prohibition of the Basis of Society, Government, and of Human Happiness," at meeting Bethel Literary Society.

Meeting, National Library for Blind, election of officers, at 1729 H street, 10:30 p. m.

Meeting, Conduit Road Citizens' Association, St. David's Parish Hall, 8 p. m.

Address, Rev. Dr. L. H. Hough, on "The Making of a Captain," at Hamilton M. E. Church, under auspices of Washington District Epworth League, 8 p. m.

Reception, at Memorial Continental Hall, in honor of Ohio coast boys and domestic soldiers, 8 p. m.

Christmas Bazaar, Langdon Methodist Episcopal Sunday school room, by ladies of Aid Society.

Bazaar and Supper, Western Presbyterian Church, at church, this evening at 7 p. m.

Bazaar, Women of Christ Church, at home of Mrs. George A. King, 1811 Twenty-eighth street northwest, today.

Bazaar, given by Hiller Bible Class, at Lincoln Road Methodist Episcopal Church, Lincoln road and 17 street northwest.

Meeting, Study Club of Drama Club, at 8 p. m., with short speeches.

Speech, Prof. William H. Holmes, "Outlines of Human Aborigines History," in Lecture Hall, Public Library, 8 p. m.

Lecture, Dr. W. B. Hoffman, N. D., at meeting Men's Efficiency Club, in Washington Loan and Trust Building, 8 p. m.

Manoeuvres of the world's armies, N. 25; Armistice, N. 27; King David, N. 25; Mithras Lodge of Perfection of the Scottish Rite.

Old Fellows-Amity, No. 27; Washington, No. 6; Golden Rule, No. 23; Mount Pleasant, No. 23; Fidelity, No. 23; The Book of the Knights of Pythias—Webster, No. 7; Excelsior, No. 14; Capital, No. 24; Myrtle, No. 25.

Amusements.

Belasco—"Passing Show of 1916," 8:30 p. m.

National Amateur Boxing, 8:30 p. m.

R. F. Keith—Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Poll—"The Millionaire's Son and the Shop Girl," 8:15 p. m.

Gayety—Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Lycium—Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Comedians—Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Loew's Columbia—Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Grand—Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Strand—Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Tomorrow.

Reunion, alumnae of Technical High School, Arcade ball room, 8 o'clock.

Bazaar, Ladies of the Union of Ingram Memorial Church, Tenth street and Massachusetts avenue northeast, evening.

Gonaga Smoker, Gonaga Alumni Association, at the college, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Citizens' Association of Chevy Chase, in Chevy Chase School house, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Oldest Inhabitants' Association, at Union Engine House, 7:30 p. m.

Illustrated lecture, French scenes and experiences at front, Dr. James R. Judd, at Theodore Bailey Myers lecture house, 11:30 p. m.

Convention, District of Columbia Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, in ball room of Confederate Memorial Hotel, at 1:30 and 8 p. m. Mrs. M. H. Smith, president.

Convention, National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

Convention, National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, President Wilson, and William H. Hough, N. D., at 1:30 and 8 p. m. Mrs. M. H. Smith, president.

Bazaar, board of lady managers of Washington Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, at New Elbert, today and tomorrow from 12 noon to 10 p. m.

Bazaar, Starvation Aid for Consumptives, at Willard today and tomorrow.

Dance, Alumni Association of McKinley Manual Training School in Arcade ballroom, 8 p. m.

Masonic—Washington Centennial, No. 14; Order of the Star of Solomon, No. 3; East Gate, No. 34; Columbia, No. 1, of the Royal Arch.

Old Fellows—Eastern, No. 7; Harmony, No. 2; Friendship, No. 12; Federal City, No. 23; Mount Nebo Encampment, No. 8.

Knights of Pythias—Mount Vernon, No. 3; Equal, No. 17; Friendship Temple, No. 3, of the Pythian Sisters.

DOUTY'S RECITAL CHARMS AUDIENCE

Tenor Proves the Most Popular Artist Presented by Fine Arts Society.